

# DOCUMENT RESUME

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## ABSTRACT

This unit of work is designed to provide the participant with an overview of the purposes, methods, and techniques for testing English as a Second Language (ESL) and practical classroom applications. Given the series of learning alternatives on testing that are presented in this module, the participant should be able to: (a) demonstrate knowledge of basic testing principles and concerns and (b) apply knowledge of principles to test evaluation and construction. Exercises are provided to serve as both pre- and post-assessments of the participant's mastery of the terminal objectives of the module. Learning alternatives are presented in outline form. The alternatives include various readings and the evaluation of 29 specific tests in terms of the needs of a particular group of second-language learners. (JA)

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TEACHER CORPS BILINGUAL PROJECT  
UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD  
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
DR. PERRY A. ZIRKEL, DIRECTOR

MODULAR SEQUENCE:  
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE  
METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

TTP 001.15 TESTING

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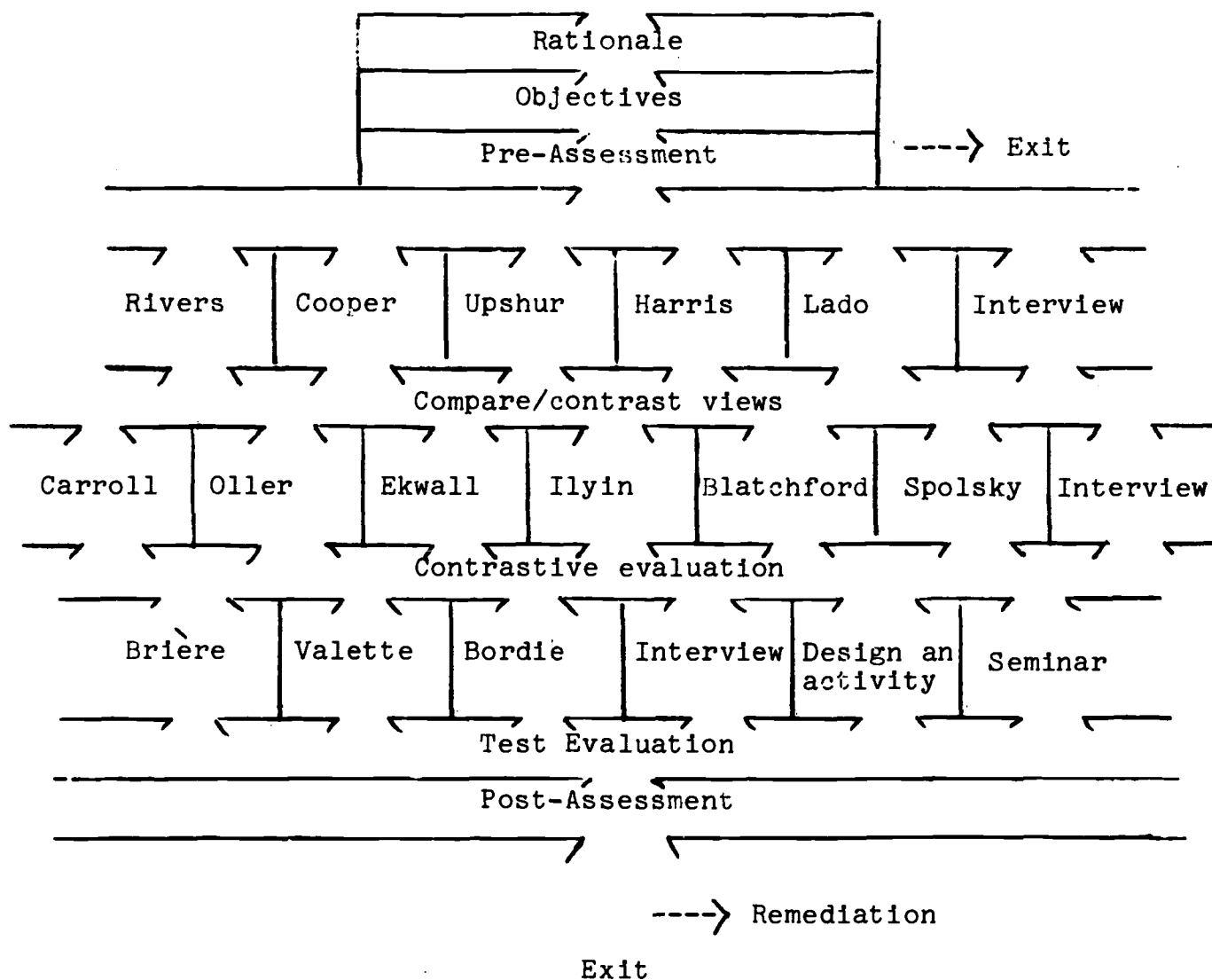
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SP008 321

# TESTING

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RATIONALE**BEST COPY AVAILABLE**

Of major importance to the ESL teacher is an evaluation of the effectiveness of instruction, or the assessment of what his/her pupils have learned. In addition, the teacher is concerned with the aptitude of his/her pupils and their general proficiency in English for assessing potential as well as performance.

This unit of work will provide the participant with an overview of the purposes, methods and techniques for testing ESL and practical classroom applications.

OBJECTIVES

Given a series of learning alternatives on testing,  
the participant will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of basic testing principles and concerns;
- apply knowledge of principles to test evaluation and construction.

PRE-ASSESSMENT

To assess your prior mastery of the terminal objectives of this unit of work, complete the following exercise.

Directions: Answer the following questions according to the directions noted in each.

- I. What are the basic principles a teacher should follow in the construction of valid classroom tests?
- II. In what ways can the teacher apply these principles in the evaluation of standardized tests?

## Learning Alternatives:

### I. Select two of the following:

#### A. Read:

Rivers, Wilga, Teaching Foreign Language Skills  
(Chicago: The University of Chicago Press,  
1968), pp. 286-317.

Activity: Restate Rivers' principles of testing  
in terms of your own teaching situation.

#### B. Read:

Cooper, Robert L., "Testing," in Allen and Campbell,  
pp. 330-345.

Activity: Answer the questions at the beginning  
of the article.

#### C. Read:

Upshur, John A., "Cross-Cultural Testing: What  
to Test," in Allen and Campbell, pp. 355-366.

Activity: Summarize Upshur's concerns in terms of  
your own teaching situation.

#### D. Read:

Harris, David P., Testing English as a Second  
Language (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co.,  
1969), pp. 1-23.

Activity: Prepare a brief summary of Harris' major  
points.

#### E. Read:

Lado, Robert, Language Testing (New York: McGraw-  
Hill Book Co., 1961), pp. 20-37.

Activity: Summarize Lado's major points.

- F. Interview a teacher to determine the basic principles and concerns of testing English as a Second Language.
- II. Compare/contrast the views of the resources you selected in #I. Share your results with your instructor and/or peers.
- III. Select two of the following. After consulting your sources, prepare a contrastive evaluation of their ideas and share your findings with your instructor and/or peers.
- A. Read:
- Carroll, John B., "Fundamental Considerations in Testing for English Language Proficiency of Foreign Students," in Allen and Campbell, pp. 313-320.
- B. Read:
- Oller, John W., Jr., "Dictation as a Test of Oral Proficiency," in Allen and Campbell, pp. 346-354.
- C. Read:
- Ekwall, E.E., "Method of Testing for Various Consonant and Vowel Sounds," Elementary English 50 (January 1973), 43-45 and 48.
- D. Read:
- Ilyin, Donna, "Structure Placement Tests for Adults in English-Second-Language Programs in California," TESOL Quarterly (December 1970), 323-330.



## E. Read:

Blatchford, Charles H., "A Theoretical Contribution to ESL Diagnostic Test Construction," TESOL Quarterly (December 1971), 209-215.

## F. Read:

Spolsky, Bernard, Penny Murphy, Wayne Holm, and Allen Ferrel, "Three Functional Tests of Oral Proficiency," TESOL Quarterly (September 1972), 221-235.

IV. Select two of the following. After consulting your sources, discuss your findings with your instructor and/or peers.

## A. Read:

Brière, Eugène J., "Are We Really Measuring Proficiency With Our Foreign Language Tests?" in Allen and Campbell, pp. 321-329.

## B. Read:

Valette, Rebecca M., "Evaluation of Learning in A Second Language," in Benjamin S. Bloom, J. Thomas Hastings and George F. Madaus, Handbook on Formative and Summative Evaluation of Student Learning (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1971), pp. 836-840.

## C. Read:

Bordie, John G., "Language Tests and Linguistically Different Learners: The Sad State of the Art," Elementary English, 47 (October 1970), 814-828.

D. Interview a teacher to determine unresolved critical areas of concern in testing second-language learners.

E. Design your own learning activity.

- F. Attend a seminar as scheduled by your module coordinator.
- V. Evaluate three of the following tests in terms of the needs of a particular group of second-language learners.
1. BARRETT-RYAN-SCHRAMMEL ENGLISH TEST  
Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.  
757 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017
  2. CALIFORNIA ACHIEVEMENT TEST  
California Test Bureau  
DelMonte Research Park  
Monterey, California 93940
  3. CALIFORNIA LANGUAGE TESTS  
California Test Bureau  
DelMonte Research Park  
Monterey, California 93940
  4. COOPERATIVE ENGLISH TEST: USAGE, SPELLING,  
AND VOCABULARY  
Cooperative Test Division  
Educational Testing Service  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
  5. COOPERATIVE SCHOOL AND COLLEGE ABILITY TEST  
Cooperative Test Division  
Educational Testing Service  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
  6. DIFFERENTIAL APTITUDE TEST  
Psychological Corporation  
304 E. 45th Street  
New York, New York 10017
  7. GLORIA AND DAVID BEGINNING ENGLISH, SERIES  
NO. 20, TEST 6, LANGUAGE ARTS-SPANISH-ENGLISH  
Language Arts, Incorporated  
1205 W. 34th Street  
Austin, Texas 78705
  8. ESSENTIALS OF ENGLISH TEST  
American Guidance Service, Inc.  
720 Washington Avenue, S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

9. MARIANNE FROSTIG DEVELOPMENTAL TEST OF VISUAL PERCEPTION  
Consulting Psychologists Press  
577 College Avenue  
Palo Alto, California 94306
10. GREENE-STAPP LANGUAGE ABILITIES TEST  
Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.  
757 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017
11. ILLINOIS TEST OF PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ABILITY  
University of Illinois Press  
Urbana, Illinois 61803
12. IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS  
Houghton Mifflin Company  
2 Park Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02107
13. THE IOWA TEST OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
Science Research Associates  
259 E. Erie Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611
14. METROPOLITAN ACHIEVEMENT TEST  
Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.  
757 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017
15. METROPOLITAN READINESS TEST  
Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.  
757 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017
16. OBJECTIVE TEST IN ENGLISH (GRAMMAR)  
Perfection Form Company  
214 W. Eighth Street  
Logan, Iowa 51546
17. PERSONNEL TESTS FOR INDUSTRY: ORAL DIRECTIONS TEST  
Psychological Corporation  
304 E. 45th Street  
New York, New York 10017
18. PEOBODY PICTURE VOCABULARY TEST  
American Guidance Services, Inc.  
720 Washington Avenue, S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

19. THE PURDUE HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH TEST  
Houghton Mifflin Company  
2 Park Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02107
20. S. R. A. HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST  
Science Research Associates  
259 E. Erie Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611
21. S. R. A. ACHIEVEMENT SERIES: LANGUAGE ARTS TESTS  
Science Research Associates  
259 E. Erie Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611
22. SEQUENTIAL TEST OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS  
Cooperative Test Division  
Educational Testing Services  
Princeton, New Jersey 08541
23. STANFORD ACHIEVEMENT TEST  
Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.  
757 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017
24. STANFORD-BINET IQ SCALE  
Houghton Mifflin Company  
2 Park Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02107
25. ENGLISH USAGE TEST FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS  
OF ENGLISH
26. MICHIGAN TEST OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY  
Follet's Michigan Bookstore  
322 S. State Street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
27. LISTENING TEST FOR STUDENTS OF ENGLISH AS A  
SECOND LANGUAGE
28. TEST OF ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
Educational Testing Services  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
29. ORAL RATING FORM FOR RATING LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY  
IN SPEAKING AND UNDERSTANDING ENGLISH  
American Language Institute  
3065 O Street, N. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

POST-ASSESSMENT

Based on the information you have acquired in this unit of work, construct and administer a short test to a particular group of second language learners. Document your theoretical concerns, procedures for construction and implementation, and your results.

Competency will be certified when your module coordinator has ascertained that the submitted post-assessment is of acceptable quality.

Remediation: Alternate learning activities are available on a contractual basis with the module coordinator.

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10. Spolsky, Bernard, Penny Murphy, Wayne Holm, and Allen Ferrel, "Three Functional Tests of Oral Proficiency," TESOL Quarterly (September 1972).